

I feel that further relaxing the limits on the number of media outlets and/or the overlapping of different media types that one company can own would be a terrible disservice to the American people. With the regulations already in place, the Clear Channel Broadcasting Co. has proven the hazards of this idea to both public safety and freedom of speech. No doubt you are aware of the incident in Minot, ND when there was a chemical spill, and the station owned by Clear Channel failed to initiate the Emergency Alert System because the station was being run remotely from corporate headquarters. This sort of public safety risk is unacceptable, and will no doubt become more commonplace if the regulations are further relaxed (instead of being tightened, as they should be).

Clear Channel is also exercising undue influence over the free speech of human beings. For a corporation, "an agglomeration of capital and property," to be influencing the free expression of American citizens is absurd, but it happens every day here in the "Land of the Free." This company organized a boycott of certain artists for simply expressing their views. While this would be acceptable under normal circumstances, one must take into account the overwhelming quasi-monopoly that Clear Channel has over the music and radio industry. Clear Channel's right to "free corporate speech" is directly infringing upon the free speech of human citizens of the US. If the regulations are further relaxed, this sort of thing will become much more commonplace, and America will become significantly less "free and democratic," to the detriment of our entire nation.

Please do not allow this perversely antagonizing type of censorship to continue or expand. I would advise that you, as public servants, should serve the best interest of the American people (not the big businesses) and tighten, rather than relax the media ownership regulations. Thank you for your time.

-Steve Morgan